

KCC 4771 (K-C 17,182)
PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 44, please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A mechanical fastening system for an article includes a loop component mountable on the article and capable of multi-directional stretch. The said loop component is constructed of a neck-stretched non-woven material and an elastic substrate wherein the non-woven material is attached directly to the elastic substrate. The fastener system also includes a hook component mountable on the article and capable of fastening engagement with the loop component to secure the article in a fastened configuration. When the hook component is juxtaposed and engaged with at least a portion of the loop component, the loop component is stretchable during limited movement of the loop component relative to the hook component.

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On page 27, line 2, please amend the paragraph beginning with "The multi-directional stretchable loop material" as follows:

The multi-directional stretchable loop material can be formed by various methods, including those specifically described below and combinations and permutations thereof. For instance, the multi-directional stretchable loop material can be formed by elongating an elastomeric substrate in multiple directions and bonding the stretched elastomeric substrate to a nonwoven web. The elastomeric substrate can for example be stretched in both a machine direction and a cross machine direction. The nonwoven web can be ungathered, gathered in one direction, or gathered in multiple directions. In particular embodiments, the multi-directional stretchable loop material can comprise a generally ungathered nonwoven web stretch-bonded to a multi-directional stretch elastomeric material. Additionally, the multi-directional stretchable loop material can be formed by pregathering a nonwoven web and bonding the pregathered nonwoven to an elastomeric substrate having elongation characteristics in a direction other than or besides the direction of gathering. The nonwoven web can be gathered by any suitable means, such as creping, necking, use of retractive materials, or the like. Suitable retractive materials for gathering the nonwoven web or composite can comprise any material adapted to retract upon activation, whether immediately upon activation or subsequently thereto. The retractive material can comprise elastomeric or nonelastomeric materials. Suitable elastomeric retractive materials can comprise without limitation LYCRA elastomeric materials, elastomeric materials including latex rubber or synthetic urethanes, or the like, polyether block amides (PEBAX) or the like, and laminates thereof. In particular embodiments, the retractive material can comprise an elastomeric material

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having an unstable state relative to some other stable and elastic state. In such embodiments, the retractive material can but need not have elastomeric properties in the unstable state. Other exemplary materials retractive materials are described in PCT publication WO 01/87206 dated November 22, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.